

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10559

FOR EUR ONLY

PASS AMBASSADOR GARDNER

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, XT, IT
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR GARDNER'S VISIT TO EUCOM AND SHAPE

1. BACKGROUND. YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERALS HAIG AND HUYSER WILL PROVIDE GOOD OPPORTUNITIES TO DISCUSS NOT ONLY ALLIANCE QUESTIONS, BUT ALSO MATTERS OF GLOBAL IMPORTANCE. THE FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED QUESTIONS.

2. THE SOVIET THREAT TO EUROPE.

A. DESPITE THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS, BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL, ACHIEVED IN NATO DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE SOVIET THREAT TO THE ALLIANCE CONTINUES TO GROW AT A RATE WHICH OUTSTRIPS NATO FORCE AND ARMAMENTS IMPROVEMENTS. IN MILITARY TERMS, WILL THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM, AND THE SHORT-TERM DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN NATO'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO THE SOVIET MENACE?

B. ONE OF THE THORNIER DILEMMAS NATO FACES IS A CONSEQUENCE OF ITS SUCCESS. EUROPEAN PEOPLES, SPARED A CONFLICT ON THEIR SOIL FOR THIRTY YEARS, NO LONGER PERCEIVE THE WARSAW PACT THREAT AS IMMINENT--OR EVEN IN SOME CASES AS LIKELY. HOW DO WE COUNTER THIS

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DIFFIDENCE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE COMPETING DEMANDS ON SCARCE BUDGETARY RESOURCES?

3. THE SOUTHERN FLANK.

A. IS THE MOST PROBABLE DANGER TO THE ALLIANCE IN THE CENTRAL REGION OR ON NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK?

B. HOW SERIOUS ARE TURKEY'S THREATS TO REDUCE ITS

PARTICIPATION IN NATO AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE
US ARM EMBARGO AND THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE?
C. WOULD THE ENTRY OF SPAIN INTO NATO MAKE AN
APPRECIABLE MILITARY DIFFERENCE ON THE SOUTHERN FLANK,
OR WOULD ITS ADHESION BENEFIT US ONLY IN TERMS OF
ALLIANCE POLITICAL COHENSION?

4. EXPANDING NATO'S PURVIEW.

A. DO NATO MEMBERS CONSIDER THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET/
CUBAN INTERVENTIONISM IN AFRICA A REAL THREAT TO THE
ALLIANCE? DO YOU THINK THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SOME
FORM OF PAN-AFRICAN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE SIGNALS A
TURNING POINT IN WESTERN TOLERANCE OF THIS ACTIVITY?
WILL FRANCE'S PROMINENT ROLE IN THAT PROPOSAL CAUSE IT TO
CONSULT MORE CLOSELY WITH ITS NATO ALLIES, OR JUST THE
OPPOSITE?

B. IS THE CUBAN PRESENCE THROUGHOUT AFRICA A REAL
THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES, OR IS IT MORE OF A
PASSING PHASE AS SOME U.S. OFFICIALS ARGUE? HOLMES

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